

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUFFALO-NIAGARA FALLS, NY NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY, JULY 2001

Workers in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls, New York, metropolitan area averaged \$17.18 per hour during July 2001, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner John L. Wieting reported that white-collar workers averaged \$19.02 per hour and accounted for 52 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar workers averaged \$17.02 per hour and represented 29 percent of the workers, while the remaining 19 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$11.85 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 145 firms representing 272,300 workers in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metropolitan area, which includes Erie and Niagara Counties in New York State. Almost three-fourths of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for about 50 detailed occupations. Among white-collar workers, industrial engineers averaged \$26.18 per hour; computer systems analysts and scientists, \$26.11; secretaries \$15.29; and receptionists, \$9.54. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$19.83 per hour, truck drivers at \$14.81, and stock handlers and baggers at \$7.55. In service occupations, janitors and cleaners averaged \$11.64 per hour; and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$10.00.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area averaged \$18.31 per hour and part-time workers earned \$9.54. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$18.32 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$13.76. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$14.85 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.34.



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The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by business for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY National Compensation Survey, July 2001 (Bulletin 3110-48). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the New York Information Office by calling (212) 337-2400. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available from the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in New York by dialing (212) 337-2412 and requesting document 9615.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the New York Information Office at (212) 337-2400 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY, July 2001

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$17.18	2.5	\$15.87	3.1	\$21.25	3.7
All excluding sales	17.41	2.5	16.09	3.2	21.27	3.7
White collar	19.02	3.3	16.98	4.0	24.25	4.7
White collar excluding sales	19.72	3.1	17.66	3.9	24.35	4.8
Professional specialty and technical	26.44	3.7	23.47	4.8	30.44	5.4
Professional specialty	29.09	3.5	26.55	4.6	31.82	5.1
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	30.63	5.7	31.41	5.9	—	—
Industrial engineers	26.18	7.3	26.18	7.3	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	26.55	6.2	27.62	11.2	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	26.11	6.2	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	26.01	4.9	25.32	6.0	27.78	9.2
Registered nurses	21.17	2.5	21.15	3.0	21.24	3.8
Pharmacists	36.34	3.1	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	46.20	10.9	45.76	18.4	46.47	13.6
Other post-secondary teachers	35.74	3.9	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	31.38	6.1	18.62	22.2	33.70	6.5
Elementary school teachers	29.23	13.9	—	—	—	—
Secondary school teachers	32.64	5.6	—	—	33.30	5.7
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	18.63	8.1	—	—	20.38	4.7
Social workers	18.59	9.9	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	19.51	12.9	19.52	13.3	—	—
Technical	15.81	4.1	15.39	4.1	17.43	10.0
Licensed practical nurses	13.65	4.0	13.41	5.0	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	14.84	8.0	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	25.49	5.9	25.97	7.7	24.37	7.2
Executives, administrators, and managers	32.09	7.8	33.58	9.5	28.00	10.5
Administrators, education and related fields	27.52	17.2	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	32.14	6.4	31.85	7.1	—	—
Management related	19.52	5.9	18.42	8.2	21.75	7.8
Management related, n.e.c.	20.63	8.2	—	—	—	—
Sales	13.37	9.4	13.05	9.7	—	—
Supervisors, sales	15.30	16.0	15.30	16.0	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	8.55	12.1	8.55	12.1	—	—
Cashiers	8.22	10.3	7.54	9.0	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.98	3.0	12.42	3.2	15.00	6.1
Secretaries	15.29	4.4	14.65	6.6	16.12	4.2
Typists	13.29	4.1	—	—	—	—
Receptionists	9.54	3.1	9.54	3.1	—	—
Information clerks, n.e.c.	11.39	7.1	10.70	4.1	—	—
Library clerks	12.87	11.4	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	14.88	6.0	15.11	8.6	14.38	2.2
Stock and inventory clerks	13.63	17.2	13.44	19.8	—	—
General office clerks	12.07	3.5	11.88	4.7	12.40	4.2
Data entry keyers	12.24	1.6	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	8.72	9.1	8.53	9.3	—	—
Blue collar	17.02	3.7	17.26	4.1	15.33	2.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	22.16	4.2	22.99	4.2	16.87	4.1
Industrial machinery repairers	19.83	6.1	19.83	6.1	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	20.02	6.9	22.14	6.5	—	—
Supervisors, production	25.06	7.1	25.06	7.1	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.24	4.9	16.22	4.9	—	—
Packaging and filling machine operators	11.79	10.9	11.79	10.9	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	14.27	8.1	13.86	8.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY, July 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
—Continued						
Welders and cutters	\$16.69	14.1	\$16.69	14.1	—	—
Assemblers	16.03	9.0	16.03	9.0	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	11.19	19.9	11.19	19.9	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.57	4.9	14.35	7.1	\$15.07	2.5
Truck drivers	14.81	3.9	15.13	7.1	—	—
Bus drivers	10.58	7.2	—	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	17.17	4.7	17.17	4.7	—	—
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.	15.27	4.9	—	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.38	6.2	11.16	7.4	12.73	7.5
Stock handlers and baggers	7.55	11.3	7.55	11.3	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	13.85	7.1	13.85	7.1	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	10.11	7.9	10.11	7.9	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	11.80	11.8	—	—	—	—
Service	11.85	5.5	8.42	5.3	18.08	3.8
Protective service	21.90	3.0	—	—	22.28	2.5
Food service	6.85	10.4	6.79	10.6	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.72	27.7	4.72	27.7	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	4.72	27.7	4.72	27.7	—	—
Other food service	8.01	5.6	7.94	5.7	—	—
Cooks	10.13	7.7	10.13	7.7	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.41	6.4	7.22	5.9	—	—
Health service	10.13	3.5	9.00	2.9	14.36	5.7
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.00	3.7	8.81	2.9	14.31	5.8
Cleaning and building service	11.34	5.2	10.43	7.5	12.65	6.4
Maids and housemen	8.01	8.3	—	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	11.64	4.9	10.56	5.7	12.68	6.5
Personal service	10.99	13.3	9.11	7.5	14.73	17.0
Welfare service aides	8.40	2.5	8.40	2.5	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,²**
National Compensation Survey, Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY, July 2001

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$18.31	\$9.54	\$19.31	\$14.87	\$17.17	\$17.54
All excluding sales	18.44	9.81	19.60	14.91	17.42	16.37
White collar	19.93	11.83	21.93	17.03	19.02	18.88
White-collar excluding sales	20.34	13.48	22.95	17.41	19.72	—
Professional specialty and technical	27.14	19.49	28.45	23.85	26.44	—
Professional specialty	29.96	20.80	31.04	26.38	29.09	—
Technical	16.04	13.10	16.24	15.39	15.81	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	25.72	—	24.41	25.89	25.49	—
Sales	15.67	7.71	10.84	14.48	12.26	18.88
Administrative support, including clerical	13.43	9.20	15.51	11.68	12.98	—
Blue collar	17.68	9.03	18.32	13.76	17.03	16.71
Precision production, craft, and repair	22.19	—	22.41	21.22	22.17	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.57	—	18.69	11.11	16.31	—
Transportation and material moving	15.38	10.80	14.67	14.37	14.21	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.31	7.34	12.45	9.07	11.32	—
Service	13.77	7.04	15.46	8.37	11.86	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.4	5.3	2.9	4.1	2.5	7.6
All excluding sales	2.5	5.8	2.9	4.3	2.5	6.7
White collar	3.2	7.0	4.3	4.5	3.3	11.6
White-collar excluding sales	3.1	8.4	4.1	4.5	3.1	—
Professional specialty and technical	3.9	6.8	5.2	5.0	3.7	—
Professional specialty	3.7	7.0	4.8	4.5	3.5	—
Technical	4.3	6.1	5.6	5.7	4.1	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.9	—	6.6	7.5	5.9	—
Sales	10.2	10.0	12.6	12.7	9.3	11.6
Administrative support, including clerical	2.9	7.3	5.0	2.6	3.0	—
Blue collar	3.6	7.1	4.2	5.5	3.8	6.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.2	—	4.9	5.7	4.3	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.8	—	4.6	5.9	5.0	—
Transportation and material moving	3.3	11.5	5.7	7.4	4.9	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.1	8.4	6.6	6.7	6.3	—
Service	5.4	7.6	5.3	6.7	5.5	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY, July 2001**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$15.87	\$14.85	\$16.18	\$14.21	\$18.34
All excluding sales	16.09	14.88	16.44	14.66	18.22
White collar	16.98	14.85	17.47	16.72	18.13
White-collar excluding sales	17.66	14.95	18.20	18.63	17.91
Professional specialty and technical	23.47	15.04	24.57	24.59	24.56
Professional specialty	26.55	17.10	27.32	26.62	27.81
Technical	15.39	13.17	16.01	16.17	15.94
Executive, administrative, and managerial	25.97	26.24	25.88	32.17	22.29
Sales	13.05	14.55	12.38	10.46	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.42	11.36	12.65	12.94	12.44
Blue collar	17.26	18.41	16.86	13.75	20.32
Precision production, craft, and repair	22.99	22.86	23.09	22.46	23.55
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.22	13.44	16.64	12.04	21.01
Transportation and material moving	14.35	15.09	14.25	13.73	15.27
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.16	12.87	10.24	8.54	13.75
Service	8.42	7.16	8.99	8.82	9.50
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.1	8.8	3.4	5.4	3.5
All excluding sales	3.2	9.5	3.4	5.7	3.6
White collar	4.0	7.0	4.5	7.7	5.1
White-collar excluding sales	3.9	7.7	4.2	7.3	5.4
Professional specialty and technical	4.8	12.1	4.7	6.6	6.6
Professional specialty	4.6	18.3	4.8	6.6	6.7
Technical	4.1	7.4	3.8	5.7	5.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.7	9.3	9.7	11.2	13.7
Sales	9.7	18.3	10.2	7.1	—
Administrative support, including clerical	3.2	8.3	3.3	5.0	4.6
Blue collar	4.1	10.6	3.8	6.2	4.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.2	8.3	3.7	7.2	4.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.9	8.6	5.5	6.2	3.6
Transportation and material moving	7.1	18.9	7.3	10.9	8.2
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.4	10.6	7.3	6.7	7.7
Service	5.3	11.1	6.0	7.9	6.7

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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